

**News from            Rep. Stephanie Herseth**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**HERSETH:            WAGNER SERVICE UNIT TO REMAIN OPEN**

**Praises            Temporary Fix - Looks Ahead to Long-Term Solution**

**January            31, 2006, Washington, D.C. -**            U.S. Rep. Stephanie  
Herseth today responded to the news that the Wagner            Service Unit will  
remain open through September of this year. Herseth            has worked with  
tribal and federal officials to avoid limiting the facility's            operating hours,  
which had been scheduled to begin tonight. Instead,            the Emergency Room  
will continue 24-hour operation until the end of            the fiscal year, September  
30, 2006.

Herseth said, "This            decision is a testament to the resilience of the Yankton  
Sioux Tribe            and underlines the importance of this facility to the community  
it serves.            The Wagner Service Unit is a vital health care access point for  
tribal            members throughout the region. I am pleased that IHS has  
responded positively            to the many requests from my office and others to  
preserve the 24-hour            schedule."

Herseth, along with            Senators Johnson and Thune, wrote to Dr. Charles  
Grim, Director of IHS,            in December to express her opposition to closure. As  
the situation developed,            her office has maintained close contact with both  
the Yankton Sioux            Tribe and IHS officials.

Herseth is also            introducing a House resolution urging the IHS to maintain

the 24-hour service. Herseth said, "This solution is a real victory for the health and well-being of the tribal community, however, it is only a short-term solution. I will continue to work with tribal and federal officials to help ensure that members of the Yankton Sioux Tribe maintain access to the health care they need."

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